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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,387	08/30/2001	Jean Pierre Bertin	PF000085	9716

7590 07/28/2004
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EXAMINER

KNOLL, CLIFFORD H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2112

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/942,387	Applicant(s) PIERRE BERTIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Clifford H Knoll	Art Unit 2112	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to communication filed 6/18/2004. Currently claims 1-7 are pending.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Meirsman (US 6636923).

Regarding claim 1, Meirsman discloses a first connector for communication with a master apparatus (e.g., col. 4, lines 29-31); a second connector for communication with a peripheral apparatus (e.g., col. 4, lines 36-37), means of transmission of a supply voltage on the first connector originating from the master apparatus and means of detection of the presence thereon of the supply voltage (e.g., col. 4, lines 7-10) controlling a switching circuit fro going from a master mode and from a slave mode (e.g., col. 4, lines 38-45).

Regarding claim 3, Meirsman also discloses wherein the switching circuit comprises two inputs each linked to an input/output of a controller managing the transfer of data between the first or the second connector and a so-called main microprocessor of the apparatus (e.g., col. 4, lines 24-28), the switching circuit also comprises inputs/outputs allowing the connection of the first and second connector so that either the first connector is linked to the inputs/outputs of the controller, or the

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second connector is linked to the inputs/outputs of the controller (e.g., col. 4, lines 38-45).

Regarding claim 4, Meirsman also discloses wherein the means of detection are linked, firstly to a specific input of the switching circuit, secondly to an input of the controller and thirdly to an input of the main microprocessor (e.g., col. 4, lines 38-43).

Regarding claim 5, Meirsman also discloses wherein the master apparatus is a personal computer and the apparatus comprises a digital decoder connected to the communication network so as to allow the computer to talk to said network (e.g., col. 3, lines 39-42).

Regarding claim 6, Meirsman also discloses wherein the means of detection comprise a line transmitting either the supply voltage appearing on the first connector, or a signal representative of the appearance of the supply voltage on the first connector, to the switching circuit, the controller and the main microprocessor (e.g., col. 4, lines 9-13).

Regarding claim 7, Meirsman also discloses wherein the peripheral or peripherals are linked to the second connector of the apparatus by way of a splitter (e.g., col. 4, lines 40-41).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meirsman as applied to claim 1 above, in view of standard USB implementation, as further evidenced by Russell (US 6584519).

Regarding claim 2, Meirsman also discloses upstream and downstream connections (e.g., col. 4, lines 38-43), but neglects to mention the standard USB implementational detail which identifies these as A and B type connectors. The Examiner takes Official Notice that these are well-known physical details of the USB standard, as further evidenced by Russell (e.g., Figure 1). It would be obvious to combine the USB type connectors with Meirsman because it is advantageous to use standard USB connectors when implementing the USB standard in a system such as Meirsman. Therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Meirsman with implementation standards to obtain the claimed invention.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/18/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "[n]owhere does Meirsman disclose or suggest that the detection of the presence or absence of a supply voltage controls a switching circuit to

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trigger a change in mode of the apparatus"; however as cited in the rejection maintained supra, Meirsman does precisely that: "the new station pulls up a potential on a pin of the USB connector" (col. 4, lines 7-10). The Examiner deems that this is how all connections are detected, in fact this is a standard means of detecting USB connections. The switching is disclosed subsequently (col. 4, lines 30-37):

"The apparatus 20 is designed to be able to operate with and without a host station connected to the host connector 26. In case a host station connected to the host connector 26, the apparatus can operate as a normal hub station, the hub circuit 22 performing the known functions of the hub station. In case no host station is connected to the host connector 26, the local host processor 24 operates as host processor, communicating with slave stations connected to the slave connectors 28a-c."

and as disclosure of the active disposition of this change (col. 5, lines 1-4):

"It is possible that, during the time when the local host processor 24 operates as host processor, a new host processor (host station) 38 is connected to the host connector 26 (either directly or via one or more hub stations)."

Thus the rejection of claim 1, and dependent claims, is maintained.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tomaszewski (US 2001/0001563) exemplifies standard

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detection of a potential to indicate a connection (para. 20-23) as does likewise Oguma (US 6516205, e.g., col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 8).

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

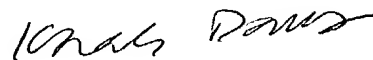
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clifford H Knoll whose telephone number is 703-305-8656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0630-1500.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

chk



Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner